

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01 AID-05 IO-11 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 /074 W

----- 061925

O 121717Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6632

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACHTAI

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0641

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT TH

SUBJ: KING DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT

SUMMARY: EVENING OF JAN 12 (LOCAL TIME) PRIME MINISTER  
KHUKRIT APPEARED ON RADIO AND TV TO REVIEW POLITICAL SITUATION.  
KHUKRIT STATEMENT PRECEDED BY READING OF SERIES OF ROYAL  
DECREES DISSOLVING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND PROVIDING FOR  
NATIONAL ELECTIONS APRIL 4 AND DESIGNATING MINISTER OF  
INTERIOR (I.E., KHUKRIT HIMSELF SINCE CABINET RESHUFFLE OF  
JAN 8) TO CARRY OUT THIS SERIES OF ACTIONS. KHUKRIT  
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THEN REVIEWED SITUATION THAT LED UP TO DISSOLUTION, CALLED

ON PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES WHO ARE "GOOD AND HONEST" FROM ESTABLISHED PARTIES. PRESENT CABINET WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE PENDING ELECTIONS. NO ADVERSE REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT AS OF MIDNIGHT (BUT POLICE AND SOME ARMY UNITS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN ALERTED). AT THIS POINT THERE ARE NO RPT NO NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS OF U.S. INTERESTS IN THAILAND. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 10 PM JAN 12 PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT ANNOUNCED ON RADIO AND TV THAT THE KING HAD APPROVED HIS REQUEST FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT. ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD 4 APRIL. DURING THIS PERIOD KHUKRIT WILL HEAD THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT CARRYING OUT DAY TO DAY BUSINESS WITHOUT TAKING

ANY MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES.

2. IN REMARKS APPARENTLY DELIVERED EXTEMPORANEOUSLY, WITHOUT PREPARED TEXT, KHUKRIT SAID THAT HE HAD CALLED FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE PARLIAMENT BECAUSE HE COULD NOT GOVERN WITH THE PRESENT COALITION OF 16-17 PARTIES. HE FORESAW LITTLE CHANCE THAT ANOTHER PERSON COULD FORM A MORE STABLE GOVERNMENT GIVEN THE TWENTY-THREE PARTIES NOW IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. ANOTHER UNSTABLE COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD RUN THE DANGER OF CAUSING THE PEOPLE TO BECOME "BORED" WITH DEMOCRACY. THE BEST ALTERNATIVE WAS TO HOLD NEW ELECTIONS WITH THE HOPE THAT A SINGLE PARTY OR A MORE MANAGEABLE NUMBER AND NEW TYPE OF PARTIES WOULD EMERGE. HE FURTHER SAID THAT ALL THAT HE DID WAS TO SAFEGUARD DEMOCRACY.

3. DURING THE SPEECH KHUKRIT IN EFFECT STARTED HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN BY ASKING VOTERS WHO THOUGHT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE A POOR JOB TO VOTE AGAINST HIM AND TO VOTE FOR HIM IF THEY THOUGHT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE A GOOD JOB.

4. EVIDENTLY IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE OPPOSITION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISSOLUTION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RTG HAD TAKEN STEPS IN LATE AFTERNOON OF JAN 12 TO PUT POLICE AND SOME MILITARY FORCES ON ALERT. ACTION SEEMS CONFIDENTIAL

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TO HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARY, AS BANGKOK APPEARS CALM AS OF MIDNIGHT, ALTHOUGH REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS NOT RPT NOT YET HAD TIME TO DEVELOP. NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF ANY MILITARY ACTION, BUT WE WOULD EXPECT NONE AT PRESENT, AS EFFECT OF KHUKRIT ANNOUNCEMENT IS TO CONTINUE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FOR THREE MONTHS REMAINING BEFORE NEW ELECTIONS.

5. IN TERMS OF U.S. INTERESTS, WE SIMILARLY SEE NO RPT NO

IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN SITUATION. KHUKRIT ANNOUNCEMENT IS IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 122 OF CONSTITUTION, AND EARLY  
ELECTIONS WILL GIVE PEOPLE OPPORTUNITY TO PASS ON ISSUES TO  
BE DEVELOPED DURING CAMPAIGN. MEANWHILE, KHUKRIT GOVERN-  
MENT REMAINS IN OFFICE, ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE LIMITED TO ROUTINE  
ADMINISTRATION OF EXISTING BODY OF LAW.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, TH, (KHUKRIT PRAMOT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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